has stated at various fora that Sindri Unit of FCI and Barauni Unit of HFC will not be closed;

(b) if so, what economic and other measures have been taken by Government to keep these plants running;

(c) whether Government have any planning to merge these sick units with healthy companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) including its Sindri unit, and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) including its, Barauni unit, have been declared as sick companies by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. On 16.3.94 BIFR issued further orders appointing Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) as the Operating Agency in respect of FCI and HFC. Government has been providing, to the extent possible, budgetary support to FCI and HFC to carry out renewals|replacements and to meet partly their working capital requirements to enable these companies to run their plants, including the Sindri and Barauni units. Any final decision on the rehabilitation|restructuring of these units would depend upon the outcome of proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority.

(c) and (d) No such decision has been taken.

**Lack of Funds in the Sindri Unit of FCI**

6878. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain on-going capital works in progress are suffering due to lack of funds in the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, Sindri Unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that supply of feedstock, spares and other inputs is threatened everyday due to non-clearance of arrears due;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what measures have been taken by Government to pay off the dues of creditors and to keep the plant running?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The progress on implementation of Sindri Revamping Phase-I and Phase-II Schemes, estimated to cost Rs. 15.23 crores and Rs. 19.66 crores, respectively, is slow on account of paucity of funds with the company.

(c) to (e) As on 31-3-1994 the outstanding arrears of input suppliers for Sindri unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI), were about Rs. 30 crores. The major outstandings are for coal, power, road and rail transport spares and chemicals, customs duty, bags etc. Government has been providing, to the extent possible, budgetary support to FCI to carry out renewals|replacements and to meet partly their working capital requirements. During the year 1993-94 budgetary support of Rs. 67.50 crores was provided to FCI. A provision of Rs. 60.50 crores has been made for the year 1994-95.

**Operational of International airlines in domestic sectors**

6879. SHRI RAMCHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in th 'Sunday Observer' of 7th March, 1993 under the captioned 'Ministries Skirmish over Open Skies Aviation Policy';

(b) if so, what are the compelling reasons for allowing foreign airlines to collaborate with Indian Private Air Taxi Operators;

(c) whether some are pushing the projects and forcing Government to alter the Air Corporation Act; if so, the factual position thereof, as also regarding the Jet Air, mentioned in the news report; and

(d) the details of the fall out on Indian carriers, if the International airlines operate in domestic sectors?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Air Corporation Act, 1953 has been repealed with effect from 1-3-1994. Foreign equity participation is permitted to enable the air taxi operators to have a larger capital base. M/s. Jet Air has been permitted to have a 40% foreign equity.

(d) Indian Airlines has lost 25 per cent market share due to Air Taxi Operaiton as a whole. It is not possible to estimate the specific impact on operations and revenues of Indian Airlines and Air India due to foreign equity participation at this stage.

**Non-payment of contingency disbursement by Air India**

6880. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by Air India from its employees with regard to non-payment of contingency disbursement made during riots period in December|January, 1993; and

(b) if so, what action Air India has taken to remove such discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Contingency disbursement during riot periods in December, 1992 and January, 1993 at Bombay was made to employees commuting to their place of work beyond 1 Km. from their residence due to major disruption in city transport service. The representationists were staying within the radius of 1 Km. from their place of duty and therefore were not entitled to such payment.

**Seniority for cadre of Traffic Assistants at Bombay**

6881. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has two seniorities for the cadre of Traffic Assistants at Bombay;

(b) if so, whether Traffic Assistants at Delhi; Calcutta and Madras also have such different seniorities;

(c) whether management of Air India has received representations from its employees, including physically handicapped persons, for correcting such anomalies; and

(d) if so, what action Air India propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATON AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One list is meant for the Airport staff and the other for Booking Office and Space Management staff:

(c) and (d) The management of Air India received a representation from a physically handicapped employee for restoration of seniority lost on account of his voluntary transfer from Bombay Airport to Space Control Department. The matter is under examination.

**Agitation for interim relief in Air India**

6882. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether their was any agitation by employees of Air India for payment of interim relief;